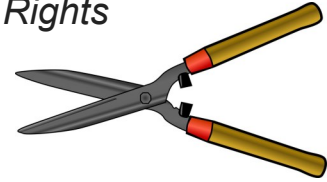


Berwyn Heights Pepco Tree Maintenance Information

Pruning vs. Tree Removal—Know Your Rights



Pepco needs to clear trees in Berwyn Heights from power lines. However, Pepco may have told you that your trees must be removed without informing you if your trees can be pruned instead.

The mature trees in our town are 50-100 years old. Newly planted trees will not reach the height of our current tree canopy in our lifetime. Shade trees provide many aesthetic and economic benefits to our town. Berwyn Heights is an official Tree City certified by The Arbor Day Foundation.

As a homeowner, you may refuse to have your trees removed if they can be trimmed in compliance with "Maryland Rule Making 43" (RM43). A 15' radius must be trimmed around high voltage lines and a 10' radius must be trimmed around lower voltage lines, with no overhanging branches. Complete tree removal is not necessary unless more than 25% of the crown must be removed or if the tree is a less mature, fast-growing tree (8-10' per year).

For every tree removed by Pepco, one will be replaced on your property. If you do not wish to have another tree planted on your property, that tree will be planted elsewhere in Town to preserve our tree canopy. Pepco is required to trim trees every four years.

Trees identified for removal by Pepco, on both Town and private property, are marked with blue dots. Not all trees with blue dots on Town property will be removed, as the Town staff approved the work on each tree individually.

If a tree on your private property has been marked with a blue dot, you should have been contacted by Pepco.

Many of you purchased your home in Berwyn Heights because of its mature shade tree canopy. Please ask Pepco if your trees can be pruned rather than removed. If they tell you that your tree must be removed, you may ask for a written explanation listing the reasons why your tree must be removed instead of pruned. Trees can improve our property values, provide carbon sequestration, and even lower energy costs.

For more information please contact the Maryland Public Service Commission at [410-767-8115](tel:410-767-8115). Pepco's representative for this work is Theresa with Davey Trees. She can be reached with questions or concerns at [330-274-1576](tel:330-274-1576).

Visit www.pepco.com for diagrams on legal tree pruning requirements.